

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /090 W

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R 281245Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4976

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS: GOM ACTIVE AS ICJ

FILING DEADLINE ARRIVES

1. SUMMARY: GOM PRESENTED ITS SAHARA BRIEF TO ICJ MARCH
27. PRINCIPAL PROPAGANDA FRONT DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN CREATION
OF "FRONT FOR LIBERATION AND UNITY" OF COLONY. THIS GROUP
ALMOST SURELY GOM-BACKED AND MAY BE INTENDED TO BALANCE OFF
SAHARA NATIONAL UNITY PARTY FORMED LAST MONTH, APPARENTLY
WITH SPANISH SUPPORT. MEANWHILE, SPANISH EMBASSY TELLS US
THAT MOROCCAN ARMY BASES BEGINNING TO TRAIN YOUNG MEN WHOSE
JOB WILL BE TO INFILTRATE SAHARA LIBERATION FRONT AND DIVERT
IT FROM PRO-INDEPENDENCE TO PRO-MOROCCAN COURSE. SPANISH
ALSO BELIEVE EFFORT TO REVIVE SOUTHERN LIBERATION ARMY
CONTINUES. SPANISH "REPORTS" SERVE THEIR INTEREST IN TRYING
TO MAKE US THINK MOROCCANS CONTEMPLATING USE OF FORCE IN
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SAHARA. STILL, WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT, IN ADDITION TO

MOVING AHEAD WITH DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, GOM IS AT LEAST LAYING SOME PARA-MILITARY GROUNDWORK. END SUMMARY.

2. MOROCCO DEPOSITED ITS REPORTEDLY VOLUMINOUS SAHARA BRIEF WITH ICJ ON MARCH 27, DEADLINE COURT HAD SET FOR FILING. IN STATEMENT TO MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY, DRISS SLAOUI, MOROCCO'S UN PERMP REP, SAID BRIEF SHOWED THAT SAHARA NOT RES NULLIUS AND THAT MOROCCO HAD ALWAYS HAD LINKS OF SOVEREIGNTY WITH REGION. LATTER POINT, SLAOUI ASSERTED, WAS PROVED BY MOROCCAN RESISTANCE TO SPANISH PENETRATION, CONTINUOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF EXERCISE OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY AND RECOGNITION OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY BY ALL POWERS.

3. COMPLETION OF ICJ BRIEF HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY RISE IN VOLUME OF PROPAGANDA WITH CREATION OF "FRONT FOR LIBERATION AND UNITY" (FLU) AS PRINCIPAL NEW DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE FLU, WHOSE MANIFESTO CALLED IN VIVID LANGUAGE FOR RE-INTEGRATION, IF NECESSARY BY FORCE, OF SAHARA INTO MOROCCO, TO BE GOM CREATURE, PROBABLY INTENDED TO BALANCE OFF SAHARA NATIONAL UNION PARTY. LATTER GROUP CAME INTO BEING IN SAHARA LAST MONTH AND, WE WOULD GUESS, IS TOLERATED, AND PROBABLY BACKED, BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES. MOROCCANS FIND IT HIGHLY OBJECTIONABLE OGRANIZATION.

4. SPANISH EMBASSY THINKS FLU IS SEPARATE FROM TWO OTHER RABAT-BASED SAHARA "LIBERATION" GROUPS. THESE ARE EDOUARD MOHA'S BLUE MEN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (MOREHOB) AND AUGUST 21 MOVEMENT. UNTIL 1973, MOHA, A SAHARA LIBERATION PROPAGANDIST, HAD TAKEN A PRO-MOROCCAN POSITION ON COLONY'S FUTURE. AUGUST 21 MOVEMENT WAS CREATED IN RABAT IN 1973 FOLLOWING MOHA'S TEMPORARY DEFECTION FROM MOROCCAN CAUSE.

5. SPANISH EMBASSY PROFESSES TO BELIEVE THAT GOM IS COMPISMMENTING ITS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY WITH SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT IN PARA-MILITARY DOMAIN. ACCORDING TO SPANISH, MOROCCAN ARMY RECRUITING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, AND PARTICULARLY IN NORTH (KSAR EL KEBIR MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY), IN EFFORT TO ATTRACT YOUNG MEN WITH SOME EDUCATION FOR SERVICE IN SAHARA. THESE MEN, AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF WHOM ARE TO BE SPANISH SPEAKERS, WILL BE GIVEN MILITARY TRAINING AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THEN SENT INTO SAHARA TO JOIN SAHARA LIBERATION FRONT (FRELI SAHRIO IN SPANISH PARLANCE). IDEA, ACCORDING TO SPANISH EMBASSY, IS FOR NOW ALGERIAN-DOMINATED FRELI SAHRIO TO BE INFILTRATED AND DIVERTED FROM ITS PRESENT PRO-INDEPENDENCE STANCE TO POSITION FAVORABLE TO GOM.

6. SPANISH EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES "COLONEL" BEN HAMOU, FORMER SOUTHERN ARMY LIBERATION ARMY LEADER WHO WAS

RECENTLY PERMITTED TO RETURN TO MOROCCO FROM EXILE IN ALGERIA, IS BEING USED TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR NEW LIBERATION ARMY. SPANISH HAVE HEARD THAT BEN HAMOU IS LIVING IN MARRAKECH AND SAY HE IS BEING FLOWN PERIODICALLY TO SITES IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF TARFAYA TO MEET WITH HIS FORMER LIEUTENANTS. SPANISH EMBASSY NOTES THAT MANY OF THESE, LIKE BEN HAMOU, NOW OLDER MEN AND PRESUMES THAT SOME RECRUITING OF YOUNGER BLOOD GOING ON.

7. COMMENT: SPANISH REPORTS ON MILITARY ACTIVITY DOUBTLESS SELF-SERVING TO SOME EXTENT. OUR SPANISH CONTACTS HAVE SEEMED ANXIOUS TO "FILL US IN" ON REPORTS TENDING TO PORTRAY GOM AS MOVING ON PARA-MILITARY AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC FRONT IN ITS SAHARA POLICY.

8. NEVERTHELESS, WE HEAR FROM TIME TO TIME THAT GOM IS INTENT ON SOME FORM OF PARA-MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SAHARA AND TRAINING OF YOUNG MEN WHOSE JOB WOULD BE TO DIVERT FRELISAHRIO TO PRO-MOROCCAN COURSE SEEMS LOGICAL MOVE. ALSO, WHILE WE CANNOT CORROBORATE REPORT ON BEN HAMOU, POSSIBILITY OF SOME EFFORT BEING MADE TO REVIVE SOUTHERN LIBERATION ARMY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.
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